



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, CHE
Commissioner of Health

Health Department

Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

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Media Contact: Raquel M. Filmanowicz
414-286-3175 (Office)
414-708-5367 (Cell)

Commissioner of Health Response to Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Relocation of Inpatient and Emergency Room Services at St. Michael's Hospital

While the fiscal responsibilities of Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare may require restructuring of services in order to remain viable, the elimination of inpatient and emergency services at St. Michael's Hospital will certainly have a direct impact on clients, particularly the uninsured and underinsured in the city of Milwaukee.

In light of these changes, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare must not simply talk about its commitment to the underserved in Milwaukee, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare must demonstrate and reestablish that commitment in clear and tangible ways.

The health of Milwaukee depends in large part on the extent to which its healthcare systems provide support for the health of all our citizens, especially the most vulnerable among us. As is true for all of Milwaukee's healthcare systems, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare's primary challenge moving forward will be to ensure access to health services and to enhance their efforts, working with the city, to address Milwaukee's serious health disparities.

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